



Weekend/Evening Kids Action Network (W/E KAN) Volunteer Program



April 2005

Why should YOU volunteer?

To meet your Student Service Learning or Community Service requirements, to have fun, to learn new skills, to meet new people, to improve your resume, to leave the world a better place than you found it, to reconnect with your community, and maybe to even learn more about yourself!

The **W/E KAN Volunteer Program** provides supervised, group student service learning and community service projects to middle and high school students. This program is intended to promote a healthy attitude toward volunteering, to give youth a connection to their community, and to provide youth with a positive and rewarding pastime. All W/E KAN Volunteer participants receive a free T-shirt and Student Service Learning hours. Youth may participate in both W/E and W/E KAN Volunteer projects (provided that they meet the minimum age requirements set by the non-profit agency). You can learn more at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer



Nadji Kirby, W/E KAN Volunteer Coordinator

Montgomery County Volunteer Center

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W/E KAN #1. Have Fun at Discovery Creek Children's Museum!

Saturday, April 9 12:00PM - 3:00PM

Discovery Creek's new exhibit, "Power Pollinators," explores the fascinating process of pollination. The exhibit uses hands-on activities, animal demonstrations, and visual aids to educate families about pollinators and pollination. Volunteers assist museum educators with leading hikes, running the craft station, greeting visitors and reading stories to children as well as set-up and clean-up. Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington is committed to helping all children experience, appreciate, and become stewards of the natural environment. Please bring a bag lunch.

Min Age: 13 Max # of Volunteers: 4

Location: Glen Echo Park

Web site: www.discoverycreek.org

W/E KAN Volunteer Team Captain: Nadji Kirby

Email: nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov

Phone Number: 240-777-2614

W/E KAN #2 Sort Clothing for those in need at Interfaith Clothing Center!

Saturday, April 2 9:00AM - 12:00 NOON

Sort, fold, and display donated clothing and housewares, take down empty hangers, restock shelves, and assist with clients. The Interfaith Clothing Center serves thousands of families each year by distributing clothing, household goods, and school supplies free of charge to low-income residents of Montgomery County.

Min Age: 14 (younger w/adult) Max # of Volunteers: 5

Location: Gaithersburg

Website: www.communityministrymc.org

W/E KAN Volunteer Team Captain: Nadji Kirby

Email: nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov

Phone Number: 240-777-2614

W/E KAN #3 This Project is For the Birds!

Sunday, April 10 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM

In conjunction with the JYPI Serving Together program (www.jypi.org), volunteers will, using kits, construct bird feeders and bat boxes for this beautiful site. Volunteers will have time to visit with farm animals. Volunteers will also partner with a teen or young adult with special needs to perform community service together. Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuaries mission is to offer care, rehabilitation, and permanent sanctuary for rescued farm animals; provide protected habitat for wildlife; furnish information to the public regarding farm animals and wildlife issues; promote compassion and humane treatment for all animals.

Min. Age: 14 Max # of Volunteers: 20

Location: Poolesville

Website: www.animalsanctuary.org

W/E KAN Team Captain:

Mike Glazier

Email: mike@jypi.org

301-348-7348

Phone Number:

W/E KAN #4 Transform Lives as you Transform Homes with Rebuilding Together

Saturday, April 30 1:00PM - 4:00PM

During April, volunteers in Montgomery County will team to transform more than 50 homes of low-income homeowners, providing the repairs necessary to allow the elderly, disabled and families with children to live in warmth and safety. Roll up your sleeves and do some yard work, painting, fix leaks, install windows, and repair decks. All work is supervised by a skilled volunteer House Captain.

Min Age: 14 Max # of Volunteers: 10

Location: TBA

Web site: <http://www.rebuildingtogethermc.org>

W/E KAN Volunteer Team Captain: Nadji Kirby

Email: nadji.kirby@montgomerycountymd.gov

Phone Number: 240-777-2614



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COMING SOON...Family Volunteer Weekend 2005!

Mark this **Seasons of Service** weekend (May 7 & 8) of volunteering on your calendar! A few of the projects we're planning include a stream clean-up, sprucing up a farm along the Underground Railroad, and celebrating Mother's Day with senior citizens.

Please contact the **Montgomery County Volunteer Center**
(240-777-2600 or volunteer@montgomerycountymd.gov)
for more information and to register your family for a project.

Agency Spotlight on Kids Enjoying Exercise Now (K.E.E.N)

Kids Enjoy Exercise Now (KEEN) , is a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization that provides free one-to-one recreational opportunities for children and young adults with mental and physical disabilities. At each KEEN session, a participating Athlete is paired with a volunteer Coach for a variety of age-appropriate recreational activities. Founded in 1992, KEEN is modeled on an innovative program developed in England.

KEEN Athletes have disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and various intellectual and developmental disabilities. Unlike other recreation programs, KEEN provides an open, unstructured environment for people with any type of disability, including those with significant needs. For some Athletes who are unable to participate in other programs, KEEN may be their only recreational and social activity.

With the help of volunteers from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Northern Virginia, KEEN has served more than 300 children and young adults in the nation's capital area. KEEN now looks forward to serving more children and touching the lives of more volunteers as it opens its doors in new cities across the United States.

Become a KEEN volunteer "coach"! In addition to working with some great kids and young adults with disabilities, you will meet a variety of interesting community-minded people. Volunteering for KEEN is fun and offers opportunities for occasional participation, regular involvement, and leadership. You don't need any prior experience working with disabled individuals - they'll train you on your first day. You don't need to be athletic, their athletes will love you just as you are!

The program is structured so that each volunteer is assigned one program participant. (They call their program participants athletes, regardless of their athletic skills and abilities, and call their volunteers coaches, regardless of their experience.) You'll become a coach once you've filled out their registration form and attend their orientation. As a coach, your job is to help your athlete take part in different sports activities and to have a good time. Individual volunteers are welcome to attend any session without notice. They also welcome volunteer groups, but require them to reserve a date in advance.

To volunteer with K.E.E.N see project # 11 on the W/E Calendar. And to find out more information about K.E.E.N, please visit their website at www.keenusa.org or contact their volunteer coordinator at 301-770-3200 or by e-mail at bokulska@earthlink.net.